

WOMAN FOUND SECRETED IN OFFICE WHEN LAWYER DIES

Telephone Trust Must Reveal Big Profits in New York City

FINAL EDITION

The



World

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PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD ORDERS TELEPHONE TRUST TO REVEAL CITY PROFITS

Defiant Attitude of the Company Is Promptly Met by Peremptory Action.

MUST FACE COURTS.
Mandamus Proceedings to Be Instituted Unless Order Is Obeyed at Once.

Aroused by the refusal of the New York Telephone Company's lawyers to produce the information demanded regarding profits of service in New York City, the Public Service Commission, this afternoon peremptorily ordered that President Bethell of the telephone company appear before it to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock and answer questions.

Chairman Decker of the commission strongly advised the telephone company's officials to consider overnight meeting the orders of the commission for information and the commission for the public for reduced rates.

Earlier in the day before the up-State Public Service Commission today the company refused to reduce its extortionate rates charged in New York City and declined to comply with the commission's request to make a financial statement of its capital investment and operating profits in the metropolis.

At the noon adjournment the commission gave a few hours for the telephone attorneys to decide whether they would reconsider their attitude. They were told that if they persisted in the reactionary course the commission would issue a peremptory order for the company officials to make out the financial statement demanded. It is now that the commission will at once issue a writ of mandamus to compel compliance.

More than a hundred men, representing large numbers of civic associations, taxpayers' alliances, apartment house owners and telephone subscribers, from all parts of the city attended the hearing in the Metropolitan Life Building to back up the demands voiced through The Evening World for relief from the extortionate charges of the telephone company.

TWO COMPLAINTS REPRESENT HUNDREDS OF PETITIONS.

There were two principal complaints, representing the hundreds of petitions and protests filed with the Commission during the past year. One was the individual petition of M. H. Winkler, lawyer, of No. 20 Wall street, demanding a reduction of subscribers' rates to the same basis as Chicago rates and the abolition of the extra charge for messages between boroughs.

The other was the complaint of large real estate owners against the rates charged for apartment house service. These were represented by Attorney H. H. Weil.

Chairman Decker of the Commission ordered that all the pending complaints be consolidated into one and the Commission would consider now the whole question of New York City rates.

At the opening of the case, Chairman Decker asked General Counsel J. L. Peckay, representing the telephone company, whether he was prepared to produce the detailed statements concerning the company's business in New York City which had been asked for at the last hearing.

Mr. Peckay replied that he had some of the information, and produced documents showing the number of subscribers in the various classes of service and data relating to private branch ex-

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BRYAN IN FLORIDA FOR VISIT.

Secretaries, With Wife and Grandson, at Miami Home.

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 22.—Secretary and Mrs. Bryan and their small grandson arrived here today for a stay of several days at the home of Mrs. Winter Borne, Villa Sereno.

PROMINENT BANKER. STRICKEN ON LINKS. IN SERIOUS CONDITION.



SCHUMANN-HEINK SUES FOR DIVORCE IN CHICAGO COURT

Singer Charges Desertion by Her Third Husband—Action Was Expected.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Suit for divorce was filed here today by Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink, the singer, against her husband, William Rapp. Desertion is the charge. They were married here in May, 1905, and the contract since has made Chicago her residence. Rapp deserted her two years ago, she alleges. They had no children.

Temperamental and family differences are said to have estranged the Rapps. Mme. Schumann-Heink had eight children by her two former marriages. That she would seek a divorce from Rapp has been known for some time to her friends.

Rapp is said to be in New York. He is a lawyer, forty years old and a man of means. His father was editor-in-chief of the Chicago Staats-Zeitung when he died about six years ago.

USE SUBWAY LANGUAGE TO SHOUTS ON CUTTER

"Watch Your Step" He Is Told as He Stumbles on Ladder

The Duchess of Chatter and her son were passengers on the George Washington of the North German Lloyd, arriving this morning. The Duchess is a daughter of Theodore V. Shonts of Interborough Railroad fame. Papa Shonts went down the ladder to the revenue cutter to meet his daughter and grandson.

It's a steep climb up the ladder from the cutter to the steamer, through a side hatchway. Mr. Shonts, like everybody else, had to scramble over the ladder rungs in the ascent.

"Watch your step," roared a posthumous man on the cutter.

The Interborough Railroad president slipped a rung.

"Stop! Stop!" yelled the man on the cutter.

"Ha! Ha!" roared the president, pausing and looking down on the cutter. "It is a good deal like the subway, boys."

Then he continued to the ship's side door. But no rough guard caught him through. He was taken gently and heaved on deck. Such an act is in the arms of the Duchess.

WELSH TINPLATE ORDER RESULT OF NEW TARIFF

Order for 40,000 Tons Given by American Canning and Oil Concerns.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Welsh tinplate makers have secured orders for some 20,000 tons for delivery to American canning and oil concerns between now and June, it was announced here today.

The United States tariff, which had almost destroyed the Welsh tinplate trade, promises in its revised form, it is said, to the makers, to prove the salvation of the industry, as they now find they are able to compete successfully with transatlantic competitors.

BANKER TALBERT STRICKEN DOWN ON GOLF LINKS

One of the "Younger" Financiers Is Paralyzed at Garden City Golf Club.

CONDITION IS SERIOUS.

Vice-President of National City Bank Began Life as a Cotton Picker.

Joseph Traut Talbert, Vice-President of the National City Bank and one of the best known of the "younger" financiers in New York, is seriously ill at the Garden City Hotel, Garden City, L. I. He was stricken with paralysis Saturday afternoon while playing golf at the Garden City Golf Club and is under the care of Dr. Louis M. Lanchart of Hempstead and several trained nurses.

Dr. Lanchart declined to give out a statement to-day, saying it would be to-morrow before he would care to commit himself.

The banker, a robust, vigorous man, appeared to be in the best of health when he reached the golf club Saturday afternoon for a round with A. H. Wiggin. He and his partner had played the first two holes and were on the tee of the third when Mr. Talbert collapsed.

Mr. Wiggin shouted for help and employees of the club and members carried the stricken man to the clubhouse. There Dr. Lanchart was summoned and the banker was taken in a taxicab to the Garden City Hotel and put to bed.

Dr. Lanchart stayed in practically constant attendance throughout Saturday night and yesterday, and summoned trained nurses. The paralysis attacked Mr. Talbert's legs, but whether it has spread to other parts of his body Dr. Lanchart has refused to say.

Mr. Talbert was born in Mississippi in 1864, and his boyhood memories consisted chiefly of recollections of the Louisiana cotton fields, whither he migrated and where he made his living as a cotton picker. He did not stop in the cotton fields, however, but travelled on to San Antonio, Tex., where he got a job as an errand boy. He had reached manhood before he had his first experience in banking.

Once in the business, Mr. Talbert kept steadily on until he came to be a bank examiner in Fort Worth, Tex., and later a national bank examiner in the Chicago district. He left the service to become cashier of the Commercial National Bank in Chicago, and held that post, as well as the Presidency of the Chicago Clearing House Association, when he was summoned to his post here in 1903.

Frank A. Vanderbilt, President of the National City Bank, said he had heard of Mr. Talbert's stroke and was greatly worried. He is receiving telegraphic reports of Mr. Talbert's condition hourly and said these held the cheering news that, however bad Mr. Talbert's attack might be otherwise, it had not threatened his life.

COSTS HIM A \$3 FINE FOR A ROW OVER SANTA

Ketch Attacked Sister-in-Law for Telling Child About the Saint.

GRACEY RIDGE, N. Y., Dec. 22.—André Ketch, the Bronx, said today he did not believe in Santa Claus. He told his sister-in-law, Mrs. Annie Sorenson, of No. 20 Ten Eyck street, Brooklyn, that it was silly to tell his son, Gustav, Jr., six years old, tales of Santa Claus and his gifts.

After a heated argument Mrs. Sorenson accused the atheist of Ketch, charging that he had struck her with his fist and insulted her.

Magistrate Brown in the Morfwerd Police Court fined Ketch \$3 and told him he ought to be ashamed of himself.

SAILING TO-DAY.

Meridian Montevideo 10 M.

Manila, Norfolk 3 P. M.

WHITMAN DID SEEK INCREASED POWER, OSBORNE DECLARES

Wanted Glynn to Give Him State-Wide Jurisdiction Over Graft, He Says.

BUT WHITMAN IS FIRM.

Insists That Osborne Suggest His Designation as Deputy Attorney-General.

Gov. Glynn's plain assertion that District Attorney Whitman is "playing politics in his activities in digging into up-State political contribution" scandals was made the more pronounced, in the judgment of politicians to-day, by the declaration of James W. Osborne that it was Mr. Whitman who first suggested that the Governor designate him a Special Deputy Attorney-General.

Mr. Whitman, in a statement issued last night, said the suggestion was first made by Mr. Osborne, who is conducting an investigation into up-State graft matters for the Governor.

"While I thought and still think," said Mr. Osborne to-day, "that it would be a very good idea to designate District Attorney Whitman as a Special Deputy Attorney-General to prosecute the grafters in all counties outside New York County, it was not I nor Mr. Harry Rubin who conceived the idea."

"Mr. Whitman telephoned me last Wednesday at my home and asked me to come and see him. I visited him at the Criminal Justice Building and he straightaway made the proposition to me and to Mr. Rubin that I go to Albany and urge the Governor to designate him as a Special Deputy Attorney-General."

"It was Mr. Whitman who conceived the idea and broached it to me. I did say to Mr. Whitman at that time that I was hampered in my work because I had no certain of detectives nor assistant prosecutors to aid me. It was then that he asked me to go to Albany and urge the Governor to designate him."

"I have the greatest admiration and respect for Mr. Whitman and believe absolutely in his integrity and purpose. I feel certain that he wanted the designation for the sole purpose of pursuing the trail of graft which led outside this county and that there was no politics in his request."

LAWYER RUBINO'S VERSION OF THE MATTER.

Henry A. Rubino, a lawyer who, as counsel for the Warner-Quinn Asphalt Company, has been looking into State highway matters since last June, and who was recently appointed by Mr. Whitman a Special Deputy Assistant District Attorney to help in the graft investigation, said this afternoon:

"Last week during one of my conferences with Mr. Whitman he mentioned the fact that Mr. Osborne intended to speak to the Governor about having him designate a Special Deputy Attorney-General. Mr. Whitman said that if I cared and desired to I had his permission to speak to the Governor also, and I did, following Mr. Osborne."

"The Governor at first said that he did not think it was possible for the Chief Executive to make such a designation. I told him that in my opinion it was possible. He then said he did not think it would be in keeping with the spirit of the law, and that such an appointment would be a reflection upon the ability of every District Attorney in the State."

District Attorney Whitman said to-day:

"The statements I have made are correct and absolutely truthful. I did see Mr. Osborne at my house last Wednesday night. Mr. Osborne had been trying to see me for two days. He telephoned to me and asked me when he might see me. I told him to come to my apartment on Wednesday night. He came there and during the course of our talk about the Deputy Attorney-Generalship, he said to me: 'If Gov. Glynn doesn't do this, I shall get out.' He told me that he was not making any headway with his investigation as matters stood."

(Continued on Twelfth Page)

GILLEY'S "INVALID" PORT.

Port of London since yesterday.

At London since yesterday.

NEW YORK MAID PRIZE BEAUTY OF ALL WELLESLEY STUDENTS



NEW YORK GIRL WINS PRIZE AS LOVELIEST IN WELLESLEY COLLEGE

Miss Minahan of This City Is One of Most Popular Maids There.

WELLESLEY, Mass., Dec. 22.—Miss Maude G. Minahan of No. 50 West One Hundred and Twenty-first street, New York City, has been declared the victor in the beauty contest among Wellesley girls. She also is one of the most popular girls in her class.

Wellesley had been asking for a long time, "Who is the prettiest girl in college?" Hence the contest. The young women invited to enter the competition all modestly declined, but some of them had friends who were more appreciative and less reticent on their behalf and entered their names.

It would seem by the award that the medium complexioned girl was the most admired, on the whole—she of the brown eyes and brown hair, who is neither too pronounced in type of feature nor the extreme of dark or light, for such is Miss Minahan.

TRUST COMPANY GIVES EMPLOYEES BIG BONUS

Central Concern Votes 50 Per Cent. of Annual Salaries to All but President.

The trustees of the Central Trust Company voted the customary bonus today to all employees of the concern below the President. It is a Christmas present which the trust company has made a habit of giving.

President Wallace's name was not mentioned in the announcement, but it is expected that the announcement will be made soon of the presentation to him of \$10,000. He has received such a cash gift annually for several years.

ATTACH PAVLOVA FOR WAGE.

Scenery and Box Receipts of Russian Dancer Seized in Boston.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 22.—The scenery of Mme. Pavlova, Russian dancer, and the box office receipts of the Russian Grand Opera House have been attached by Eben Abbot, an assistant manager for Max Baer of New York, as a preliminary to entering suit for \$10,000 alleged to be due him as salary.

Hand had been furnished, it is understood, by the defendants in the case.

HIS DEATH REVEALS WOMAN HE SECRETED IN OFFICE FOR YEARS

Former District-Attorney Melvin H. Couch of Sullivan County Had Mysterious Affinity Secreted in His Office for Years

WIFE FAINTS WHEN SHE CONFRONTS THE WOMAN

Presence of Poorly Clothed, Unattractive Female Startles Sheriff and Other Associates of Deceased.

The information that for many years behind a locked door leading to a secret room off his office in the Masonic Temple Melvin H. Couch, former District-Attorney and leading lawyer of Monticello, Sullivan County, N. Y., had kept a woman in virtual solitary confinement has come to light through the sudden death of Couch. An autopsy held to-day shows that he died of the rupture of a blood vessel near the heart on Sunday morning.

Couch died in his office. It had been for years his custom to sleep there frequently, his excuse being that he was troubled with insomnia and required his daylight surroundings for composure. The woman who lived behind the office in a scantily furnished room had never been seen by any one in Monticello and her very existence was unknown to all but Couch until she revealed herself after telephoning the news of the lawyer's death from his office.

Although his wife had been a frequent visitor to the lawyer's office, like Bluebeard's wife she was forbidden ever to enter a door at the back of the room.

DOWAGER EMPRESS ESCAPES EXPLOSION ON RUSSIAN ROYAL TRAIN

Crash Occurs Just Before Her Arrival to Board Special on Trip to St. Petersburg.

ROSTOK, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Dec. 22.—An explosion occurred on the Russian coast special train at the railroad station here just before the arrival of Dowager Empress Marie of Russia, who left Copenhagen to-day for St. Petersburg. Seven members of the train crew were injured.

According to the official account the explosion was caused by a defect in the lighting apparatus.

CHANLER UNDER KNIFE FOR FRACTURED KNEE

Nature of Mysterious Injury Made Known After Operation—Is Doing Well.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—William Astor Chanler today underwent an operation for a fractured knee. It was successfully performed by Dr. C. W. du Roon, who removed a clot of blood. The patient was slightly feverish afterward, but there were no other symptoms.

It had been reported on Dec. 8 that Mr. Chanler was lying seriously ill at the American hospital at Neuilly, a suburb of Paris, as a result of an automobile accident or a bullet wound. The hospital authorities refused to define the injury until to-day.

GLYNN MUST STICK TO WORK.

Governor Too Busy to Take Christmas Holiday Out of Town.

ALBANY, Dec. 22.—Pressure of official business, including the preparation of the annual message to the 194 Legislature, will prevent Gov. Glynn from spending his Christmas holiday out of town. He had planned to leave to-morrow with Mrs. Glynn for Lynn, Mass.

FOR RACING SEE PAGE 16.

When the news of Couch's death reached Mrs. Couch early yesterday, through indirect sources, she hurried to his office. He lay dead on a lounge, surrounded by the undertaker and some of the county officials, who were inclined to regard his death as suspicious. At her suggestion an attempt was made to open the forbidden door. It was locked. The undertaker, stimulated by the extraordinary circumstances, mounted a chair and peered over the transom. "Don't break down the door. Don't hurt me," she beseeched. "I'll come out."

Then and there Couch's carter kept secret was revealed. In a corner of the room crouched a wild-eyed frightened woman, huddled and disordered hair running about her pale face.

"Don't break down the door. Don't hurt me," she beseeched. "I'll come out."

She unlocked the door and walked to the officials, who stared at her in their stupefied silence.

"Who are you?" demanded Sheriff Kinney.

"I am Josephine M. Brance," she stammered and then broke into wild sobs.

"I know nothing of Mr. Couch's death," she cried. "I came out of the room at 9 o'clock this morning and found Mr. Couch dead on that lounge, where he often slept."

Mrs. Couch fainted as the woman, a stout, not particularly attractive personality, with dark, gray sprinkled hair, confronted her. Sheriff Kinney, himself a lifelong friend of Couch, as were most of the others in the room, took the woman into custody as a "suspicious person."

To all questions the woman, who spoke in a hurried, frightened way, returned the same story of her discovery of Couch's body.

"I came to call him," she said, "and when he did not awaken I looked into his face and saw that he was dead. I knew that Dr. J. F. Curlette was his brother-in-law and I summoned him on the telephone. That is all I know, really. Please, please don't hurt me, or think that I did it."

In the mean time Dr. Curlette had attended to Mrs. Couch and she was removed to the Couch home. The Sheriff took the woman to the county jail. The news of the extraordinary happenings surrounding the passing of Couch ran through the town and thence all through the county, where he was a well known figure.

Couch, who besides a striking appearance was made still more remarkable by the fact that he had a slab foot,